

WORKSHOP QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Q. -- What are the permit requirements for geotechnical borings?

A. -- A request for a waiver must be submitted to determine if a permit is required for all borings that exceed 20 feet in depth or that encounter groundwater.

2. Q. -- What is the waiver request process?

A. -- There is no fee for submitting a waiver request. The request must be submitted by mail or FAX on a County form, signed and stamped by the registered professional. Include a site map that shows the location of the proposed borings and the location of your site in relation to surrounding streets, along with a written description of the project.

3. Q. -- What is the turn-around time for the waiver process?

A. -- Our goal is to review the waiver request and make a determination within 48 hours, provided that the registered professional submits adequate data.

4. Q. -- What kind of report do you have to submit to comply with a geotechnical boring permit?

A. -- See the SAM Manual, Section 5, pages 5 and 6.

5. Q. -- We would like a definitive answer to what is required in San Diego County to backfilling a large diameter boring.

A. -- The materials used in backfilling large diameter borings shall meet the intent, if not the letter, of the State standards for well destructions. The material must be less permeable than the native soil. It shall be placed in lifts of alternating sealing material and inert granular material that can be compacted to at least 90% of maximum dry density. The thickness of the lifts shall be determined by the registered professional responsible for the project and based on the site geology, soil and groundwater conditions.

6. Q. -- When does the clock start running on the submittal of a 60-day report?

A. -- Upon completion of the last boring drilled under your permit.

7. Q. -- What type of permit is required for wire-line piezometers and do you need a permit to destroy one?

A. -- All piezometers are wells and require permits. If the well is destroyed within the time frame of the installation permit, no additional permit is required. If it is destroyed after the permit has expired, an additional permit is required for destruction.

8. Q. -- What are the surface seal requirements for geotechnical borings?

A. -- Generally, borings need to be back-filled from the bottom to ground surface. Grading activities at the site may dictate that the borings be backfilled within 5 feet of ground surface with approved sealing material and from 5 feet to the surface with native material.

9. Q. -- If a well is to be constructed in an area with shallow groundwater, how will the 3-foot concrete surface seal requirement be met?

A. -- DEH staff will review the proposed construction. If a modification of the bentonite seal will not result in a 3foot concrete seal, the diameter of the surface seal will be increased to provide the required strength.

10. Q. -- What are the inspectors inspecting at geotechnical drillings? (Drilling inspections).

A. -- Inspectors are verifying that the appropriate equipment is on site to conduct the work properly; that the backfill material is on site, that the proper procedures are being followed and that a copy of the permit is on site. A copy of inspection report form is attached below. If the inspector observes significant safety issues, the appropriate agency will be notified.

11. Q -- What are the closure requirements for exploratory trenches?

A -- DEH does not regulate exploratory trenches.

12. Q. -- The State of California and San Diego County have different definitions for temporary wells. Which has precedence?

A. -- San Diego County Code of Regulatory Ordinance has precedence and states that any well left open for more than 24 hours from time of completion is permanent.

13. Q. -- What are the requirements for perk test holes and perk testing?

A. -- The County Land Use Division regulates these activities. The general information telephone number is 858-694-2960.

14. Q. -- Are small diameter wells installed to monitor water levels regulated by DEH?

A. -- Yes, they are permitted as wells. A SAM technical work group is developing guidelines for these.

15. Q. -- Is the consulting community involved in developing standards?

A. -- Yes. We currently have a technical workgroup made up of representatives from the consulting community, drillers, laboratories, industry and manufacturers. An update on their work will be provided at the SAM Forum on September 26, 2002.

16. Q. -- Is the driller liable for not complying with permitting requirements?

A. -- Yes. The driller signs the permit application, agreeing to comply with the requirements of the SAM Manual and all County and State ordinances and laws pertaining to drilling a boring and installing or destroying a well. A copy of the permit is sent to the consultant and to the driller and is required to be on site at the time of drilling. If a permit is not required, a copy of the Waiver must be on site and the driller should verify this.

17. Q. -- Are permits required on military bases?

A. -- Yes. Any work that would require a permit in the public sector also requires a permit on military property. Some military sites, known as CERCLA sites, are exempt from paying fees, but not exempt from submitting an application for a permit.

18. Q. -- Are permits required on Indian reservations?

A. -- San Diego County does not regulate drilling activities on Indian reservations. Contact the Indian reservation authorities regarding their requirements.

19. Q. -- How do you backfill exploratory borings for which a waiver has been granted?

A. -- Regardless whether a permit has been issued or a waiver granted, all borings must be destroyed according to State standards.

20. Q. -- Do CPT's require a permit?

A. -- Permits are required if they meet the conditions outlined in Question #1 and need to be destroyed according to DWR standards.

21. Q. -- How are you handling the CPT borings drilled between deep stone columns?

A. -- Technically, they are required to be destroyed according to State standards. We suggest that you provide the details of the project to DEH and we will review for a possible waiver.

22. Q. -- How do you handle soil cuttings from geotechnical borings?

A. -- There is no specific requirement that you drum uncontaminated soil cuttings, but you need to manage the soil in a way that complies with storm-water regulations and best management practices (BMPs). In the near future, BMPs for specific site assessment activities will be included in the SAM Manual.

23. Q. -- Do you require concrete surface seals to have a 4000-PSI compressive strength?

A. -- Yes. Redi-Crete has been used, but does not meet the above requirements.

24. Q. -- Please clarify whether permits are required for drilling at Camp Pendleton?

A. -- Yes. Permits are required for drilling on all military bases, including Camp Pendleton.

25. Q. -- Can a workgroup be formed to discuss geotechnical issues?

A. -- We are going to hold an informal workshop to assist in clarifying areas of concern to the geotechnical community. If it appears that there are concerns that require further guidance, a technical workgroup may be formed to address that particular issue or issues.

26. Q. -- What are triennial permits for wells?

A. -- Triennial permits are proposed for all new wells installed beginning fiscal year 2003/2004. Wells may be in use for a number of years after the initial inspection. The purpose of the triennial permit is to provide for at least one subsequent inspection during a 3-year operational period.

If you are interested in participating in the workshop, please contact Carol Spangenberg by phone at (619) 338-2257 or by email at:

Carol.Spangenberg@sdcounty.ca.gov.



**DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
MONITORING WELL
COMPLIANCE/DRILLING INSPECTION
REPORT**

APN :
PERMIT# W
EST.#
INSPECTION DATE:

SITE NAME _____
SITE ADDRESS: _____

RESPONSIBLE PARTY: _____
ATTN: _____

CONSULTANT: _____
DRILLING CO: _____

MONITORING WELL	VADOSE WELL	BORING	DRILLING	AIR SPARGE WELL						
WELL LOCATION NUMBER										
COMPLETED										

G = Good P = Poor B = Bentonite Y = Yes M = Missing V =
Visual Inspection Only
F = Fair C = Concrete S = Soil N = No U = Unable to Locate * =
Other

DRILLING EQUIPMENT DECONTAMINATED?

SOIL CUTTINGS PROPERLY CONTAINED AND LABELED?

WELL /BORING PERMIT ON SITE?

SAMPLING TUBES WASHED AND RINSED BETWEEN USES?

CONSULTANTS ON-SITE REPRESENTATIVE:

HEALTH/SAFETY: BOOTS _____ HARD HATS _____ TRAFFIC _____ OTHER _____

REMARKS:

OFFICIAL NOTICE ISSUED

Name of Inspector ** (619) 338-***
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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